



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Friday - January 3, 2003

- ***In the West***, stormy weather prevails from ***northern California to the northern Rockies***, but unfavorably dry conditions persist elsewhere in the region. Effects of long-term precipitation deficits from the ***Southwest to the central Rockies*** include drought-reduced lake levels and severely stressed rangelands.
- ***On the Plains***, mild, dry weather continues to favor overwintering wheat. However, drought remains a concern on the ***northern and central High Plains***, where winter wheat is exposed to potential weather extremes.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, snow lingers across ***eastern portions of the region***, but mild, dry weather continues to promote off-season fieldwork in the ***upper Midwest***.
- ***In the South***, scattered showers are ending across the ***southern Atlantic States***, but fields remain wet throughout the region. Standing water and saturated soils continue to delay fieldwork and adversely affect ***Southern*** winter grains.

Outlook: Another round of rain and snow is in store for ***Mid Atlantic and New England States*** as a developing storm system tracks up the Atlantic Coast. Meanwhile, heavy rain and snow will gradually diminish in the ***Pacific Northwest and northern Rockies***, with light precipitation spreading into the ***northern Plains and Corn Belt*** over the weekend. Temperatures will continue to average as much as 20 degrees F above normal across much of the ***central and northern Plains***. Mostly dry, mild weather is anticipated in ***Southwest and southern Plains***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for January 8-12 features below-normal precipitation in ***much of the Nation***, except for ***Washington, the north-central and southern Rockies, and New England***, where wetter-than-normal weather is forecast. Above-normal temperatures are expected in the ***Southwest***, with colder-than-normal weather continuing in the ***eastern half of the U.S.***

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